

*Received for record  
August 23, 2010  
JEW  
Town Clerk*

**Approved meeting minutes  
Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC)  
July 8, 2010**

**Meeting began 7:05pm, adjourned 8:55pm**

**In attendance:** Wally Jenkins (chair), Roman Livak, Margaret Fowle, Alan Brace, Laura Hill Bermingham, Sally Hillary

**Wally called the meeting to order at 7:05pm**

**Review and approve minutes, review mail:**

- Roman moved to approve the May meeting minutes with edits, Alan seconded the motion
- Unanimous approval
- Roman moved to approve the June meeting minutes taken by Wally Jenkins, Alan seconded the motion
- Unanimous approval

**No public in attendance**

**Scenic Sampling**

- Wally gave the commissioners maps of 6 scenic sites around Huntington for each to evaluate via the scenic methodology
- Each commissioner will rank all 6 properties by the August HCC meeting
- Wally will bring 6 more properties to evaluate in August
- Wally will calculate the average scores for each property by the end of September

**Special Places River Walk**

- Aaron Worthley recommended Gretchen Alexander from the Agency of Natural Resources as a potential trip leader for the August Special Places River walk
- Gretchen is willing to host and can discuss river stability, physical properties, habitat characteristics, fish habitat, aquatic insects, and conduct a flume demonstration on site
- Wally will ask if there is a fee for Gretchen's services
- Should this Special Places still be held at the Audubon stretch of the Huntington, and, if so, should it be a joint program?
- Roman suggests leading the trip along the stretch of river just north of the town garage and rec field because there are erosion issues and it would provide a good flume example
- Also, Audubon parking lot is not close to the river, so it would be difficult to do the flume demonstration at this site because of lack of access
- Commissioners agreed that the river stretch in town center would be the better place to hold the walk
- Wally will ask Gretchen about hosting and about how many people can attend
- August 28 = tentative river walk date
- Wally will post a notice in the Times Ink and Front Porch Forum
- Sally volunteered to be the contact person to take names, emails, and phone numbers of

interested participants

- Wally will be the back up host for the river walk

### **Scenic and Biodiversity Photo Contest**

- Wally put the 1<sup>st</sup> advertisement for the photo contest at the library's bulletin board
- HCC commissioners will rotate posting their photos with a photo contest notice at the library
- August = Laura
- September = Alan
- October = Margaret
- November = Sally
- December = Roman
- January = Cassandra (not present at meeting)
- Questions regarding the photo contest: Who is the contest open to? Just Huntington residents, or Richmond too?
- Laura will send a Front Porch Forum email about the pictures and photo contest at the library to begin to spark interest around town

### **HCC clerk position**

- Wally spoke with Dan Stoddard about how to pay Laura as the HCC clerk since the Selectboard did not approve the \$600 salary in the FY11 budget
- Other town clerks submit their hours to Dan rather than receiving a monthly stipend
- Wally will speak to Dan about the hourly clerk rate (currently, Laura's hourly rate is \$10 hr for 5 hours per month, or \$50/month)
- Laura is fine with submitting hours to Dan

### **Elect treasurer**

- Duties of the HCC Treasurer:
  - keep HCC within budget constraints
  - update budget details at monthly HCC meetings
  - vote on financial issues
  - contact town treasurer for financial information
- Roman nominates Margaret as HCC Treasurer, Wally seconds, unanimous approval

### **Bland Property Update**

- the Bland property for sale is 240 acres for sale ~\$600,000-700,000
- Wally attended the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of a loosely organized group of townspeople interested in purchasing the property and maintaining public access
- Unsure where monies will come from for the purchase... exploring Vermont Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land, may apply for Conservation Funds
- The Blands are willing sellers to the town

### **Town Forest Bird Monitoring**

- Margaret and Aaron Worthley attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Town Forest bird monitoring
- Margaret, Aaron, Sally, and Cindy O'Hara attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> monitoring

- the bird numbers weren't great, there were no out-of-the-ordinary species
- Margaret hasn't heard back from Audubon
- Alan asked why the focus on bird monitoring was the town forest
- Margaret explained that it is part of the Audubon Forest Bird Monitoring program, where they are working with landowners to manage for birds
- However, there is no management at the Town Forest now
- We have an initial inventory of the town forest bird species
- Margaret will speak with Steve Hagenbuch and may decide to hold off more monitoring at the Town Forest until there is some management activity

### **Spotted Salamander Conservation**

- Wally wrote a letter to the Buel's Gore landowner, Mrs. Blodgett, who is selling land at one of the 3 area spotted salamander "hotspots," alerting her to the fact that her land is in this critical habitat area
- Commissioners agreed that the letter is well-written
- Wally will mail the letter

### **Other business**

#### ***Town Website update***

- Roman mentioned that Will and Todd are working on the new website for the town
- Wally asked Heidi to update the Conservation Fund page on the HCC link, and that the HCC members list is updated

#### ***LaBounty property***

- It is rumored that the LaBounty property bordering the Town Forest is for sale
- The land has the potential to connect 2 ski areas and may provide potential Town Forest access

#### ***HCC Retreat***

- It is time for another annual HCC retreat, now that the new members are on board
- It may be a good time to revisit old issues and brainstorm new issues
- Alan offered the Hoff Farm as a meeting site for the retreat
- Tentative date = Oct 2-3 weekend, potluck style, more information to come

#### ***Phytoremediation and salt runoff***

- Alan asked about the phytoremediation project with the salt shed and salt runoff into the river
- Laura has not moved on writing a proposal, but is interested in the idea and will continue gathering information
- The salt shed construction is funded and will begin construction, potentially off-setting the need for bioremediation
- However, other areas in town are in need of salt bioremediation to avoid running off into the river

**Adjourn:** Alan moved to adjourn at 8:55pm, Roman seconded, unanimous approval

**Date unapproved minutes to town clerk:**  
**Date approved minutes to town clerk:**

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July 13, 2010  
August 16, 2010